

SHORTLANDS SAFER NEIGHBORHOOD WARD

Public Meeting

Minutes of the meeting

**Held on Thursday 6th December 2018 at 8pm in the
Friends Room, St Mary's Church, Shortlands**

Present: Graham Pyefinch (GP) Chairman; Mike Ricketts (MR) Vice-Chair; Sam Nevin (SN) temporary Secretary; Councillor Mary Cooke (MC); David Amos (DA); Patricia Braithwaite (PB); Brian Cooke (BC); David Keall (DK); Frances Murray (FM); Susanna Sheldon (SS); Werner Schlupe (WS); Peter White (PW); Elizabeth Barnes (EB); Inspector Gary Byfield (GB); DWO PC Russell Edwards (RE); DWO PC Mandy Ellis (ME); DWO PCSO Adam Charles (AC); Sharon Baldwin (SB); Cllr Kira Gabbert (KB)

Apologies for Absence: Margaret Shaw, Jenny King, Roger Parry, Pat Chase, Kathy French.

1. Chairman's Introductions.

GP welcomed everybody and in particular the police, the three dedicated ward officers and Inspector Gary Byfield.

GP commented that Colin Carswell, the new BCU Superintendent for Neighbourhoods was due to be here but couldn't make it, but we were delighted to welcome GB in his place.

2. Update by Inspector Gary Byfield to talk about the new BCU structure and the future of policing in the Shortlands Ward and the Met in general.

GB has been here for nearly three years and is retiring in May only to rejoin in June under a "keep the experience" team.

GB said that he was really pleased at the number of times he sees AC as he's driving around. He went on to say that the Autumn Nights initiative (Halloween and Bonfire night) had gone well across Bromley with a number of arrests.

He commented that the new BCU model is challenging the senior management. Chief Insp. Craig Knight is now in charge of Bromley Safer Neighbourhoods and will meet the Ward chairs in January. Supt. Colin Carswell is the new BCU Superintendent for Safer Neighbourhoods; Mr Carswell comes from a wide operational background. There are three Inspectors, Insp Gary Byfield (GB) for

Bromley, and Dean.. and Andy.. for Sutton and Croydon respectively. GB has been the duty officer for three days this week and so has been doing Mr Carswell's priorities which are: Reduce harm, Reduce violence/vulnerability, and Increase public confidence. From a neighbourhood perspective these translate as: Reduce violence, Safeguard the vulnerable and deal with Ward priorities.

The new drive targets all of the above together with going after wanted offenders living in the area and doing weapons sweeps. They have also had an increase in cannabis factories and so keep a look out for people moving lots of black bin liners about.

GP raised a question about shift patterns. The new standard is 7am - 3pm; 10am - 6pm; and 2pm to 10pm with everybody doing a late 6pm - 4am shift on a Friday and Saturday once every five weeks. As well as this the Emergency Response Teams are always on call 24/7.

GB continued that under Operation Geranium they are putting increased police presence in the High Street on Wednesdays to Sundays to increase public safety and are also putting extra policing in place for Christmas markets.

There is also a burglary campaign for everyone to be more vigilant and lock doors and windows ("Be Safe" campaign). There is also the availability of MET Trace kits to mark valuable items in high risk areas.

AC added that there had been some garage burglaries in the "Groves" and asked people who live in flats with garages some distance away to check their garages occasionally if they don't usually go to them that often.

GB said that they were also doing some tasking of hot spots, particularly in the overlap shift when they had most resources. They also check roads in and out of the borough using the ANPR cameras.

There was a question from the floor about the cannabis farms and whether they still got information from the electricity companies about high usage etc. RE replied that the perpetrators were often quite clever at getting electricity in ways it wouldn't be so noticeable such as bypassing the meter, tapping into next door or a lamppost. There was a further question about policing of the new St Marks Sq area. RE says that they are always asked about the layout of new developments to stop rat runs etc and that this was basically a restaurant area.

GP asked about results on "stop and search". ME said that she had carried out 12 in two nights during the Autumn Nights campaign and RE said he'd stopped some youths carrying 30 eggs coming in to Shortlands.

A question was raised about whether there had been any noticeable increases in crime now that the Magistrates Court was hearing cases from the Inner London

Boroughs. The answer from RE was no and that we are very safe in Shortlands as regards gangs. There had been some gang activity in Copers Cope about a year ago, but this had been nipped in the bud. There was a comment about the status of the Albemarle Road hub. The lease does not run out until late next year and possible new premises are being discussed.

3. Report on Local Crime.

AC gave the local crime report saying that crime had been up a bit in the last few months largely vehicle crime and the previously mentioned flat/ garage burglaries. He also mentioned the cold call scam pretending to be from HMRC and threatening dire legal consequences.

ME warned that they were aware of there being some very official looking fake police warrant cards about being sold on eBay for £10. In any case of doubt, call 999 with the warrant card number, the full name and the shoulder number and they will be able to check if the person is genuine.

It was noted that Shortlands had no known offenders living in the area and crime was still very low (4 instances in the last few days vs 20 in both Copers Cope and Kelsey wards).

4. Police Initiatives and Results.

There is an operation dealing with moped crime where a specialist team from Croydon take on the high end investigations into mopeds involved in more than one crime. They are also looking around the housing association garages for stolen ones.

On the Kingswood Gardens anti social behaviour issues, they are not seeing kids and youths hanging around anymore.

RE reported that speeding check days are being held across the borough and AC added that they were aware of the speeding hot spots. GP had a note from a resident about speeding in Hayes Lane. RE said they would do a speed check there and they were aware of other local speeding hotspots.

Winter Nights is starting this week - AC is on a normal shift.

It was reported that there is an ANPR camera in Shortlands (location not disclosed!) and there are also cameras on a lot of the main routes in and out of the borough. With the appropriate cause and authority it is therefore possible to look for a car based on a partial description.

5. Local Crime Concerns

WS raised the issue of driving instructors sitting outside houses with the engine running (he was particularly concerned about this happening outside the house of

an elderly lady with emphysema). RE suggested that the best way to deal with this was to complain to the company concerned.

There was lots of advice available on Winter Safety such as being aware in crowded shopping areas, not leaving presents etc clearly visible from the outside and take care with candles. (See Appendix).

WS commented on dog walkers just dropping their poo bags in other people's hedges and wondered if the Police Team could do anything. RE confirmed that if they saw such an offence happening the Police would have a word with the perpetrator, but it can also be reported to the Council who have a Litter Enforcement team.

6. Ward Priorities

RE was happy with our priorities as stated but said that for the next month or so they will also be concentrating on burglaries because they now have the additional resources. The meeting agreed that the existing priorities should remain as they are, viz:

- . Tackling the safeguarding of vulnerable people
- . Tackling anti-social behaviour (including speeding)
- . Tackling theft of and from motor vehicles

Major MOPAC crimes are standard for the Police.

7. A.O.B.

GP reported that due to changed booking of the church rooms, our meetings next year would be on Mondays.

BC made us aware that there is a Boundary Commission review in progress that will be looking to equalize ward sizes, meaning that Shortlands would probably get bigger. Consultation on the proposals will be available to groups in due course.

MC said that Lynn Selwood the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Group wants to get out and about and could give us a talk. This was considered to be very welcome and MC will pass the contact details to GP.

Sharon Baldwin, the Safer Neighbourhood Board chair, said that ours was one of the best run and most engaged groups and she also thanked AC. All groups' concerns are collated and put up to the SNB chair; taking up various issues, SB is meeting next week with both the MET Commissioner and the Mayor of London. GP thanked SB for her kind comments and added that the dedication and strong support given by the representative Ward Panel Members, the Ward residents and

local Resident Associations, is, of course, the vital ingredient in helping to maintain the safety of our Shortlands Ward community.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 18th February 2019.

The meeting closed for refreshments at 9pm precisely.

APPENDIX to Minutes dated 6 December 2018

Some crime prevention tips to try and deter would be burglars. The run up to Christmas and the *winter months, in general, see a rise in burglaries.*

Please bear in mind the following handy tips to help deter would be burglars:

What to do before you leave your home

1. Close and lock all your doors and windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes.
2. Set your burglar alarm
3. Make sure that the side and/or back gate is locked.
4. Lock your shed or garage
5. Make sure that any valuables are not in sight.
6. Put keys out of reach of letterboxes.
7. In the evening, shut the curtains and leave some lights on.
8. Never leave car documents or I.D in obvious places such as kitchens or hallways

Please also remember:

- Test out your security lights, replace any bulbs if necessary.
- Lock up all garden accessories for winter, ensure garages and sheds are securely locked and valuable equipment is kept out of sight.
- Mark any gifts you receive with your post code and house number using a property marking (Or UV) pen. This helps ensure any stolen property is returned and it can help us to prosecute thieves.
- Keep Christmas gifts out of sight from external windows.
- Don't leave empty packaging and boxes displaying your new Christmas goods outside your property for longer than necessary.
- Never place candles near furnishings and never leave them burning unattended.

What makes your home attractive to burglars?

1. A high front boundary
2. Low side and rear boundaries
3. Accessible wheelie bins
4. No visible intruder alarm
5. No security lighting
6. Valuables on display
7. Open or unsecured windows
8. Unsecured garage or shed door
9. Unlocked back or side gate.
10. Paved path or driveway